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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/743,203

12/22/2003

Brian E. Gorrell

3030-73043

6873

23643

7590

05/25/2006

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EXAMINER

TSUKERMAN, LARISA Z

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,203

Applicant(s)

GORRELL ET AL.

Examiner

Larisa Z. Tsukerman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/07/2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2,4,6,8-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2,4,6,8-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 - 2, 12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dean et al. (3263203).

In regard to claim 1 and 12, Dean et al. disclose a distribution device 1 for distributing simultaneously high magnitude electrical potential from an input port 20 of the distribution device 1 to a plurality of output ports 19 thereof, utilization devices, the distribution device including a first portion 26 and a second portion 28 adapted for engagement (see Fig.6), at least one of the first and second portions including cooperating couplers 11.

In regard to claim 2, Dean et al. disclose the cooperating couplers 11 comprise high voltage contacts (since the device is intended as a high voltage connector, see Col., lines), the at least one of the first 26 and second 28 portions including openings (not marked) for receiving the high voltage contacts (see Fig.6).

In regard to claim 16, Dean et al. disclose a distribution device 1 for distributing simultaneously high magnitude electrical potential from an input port 20 of the distribution device 1 to a plurality of output ports 19 thereof, utilization devices, the distribution device including a first portion 26 and a second portion 28 adapted for

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engagement (see Fig.6), at least one of the first and second portions including cooperating couplers 11, and the at least one of the first 26, 50 and second 300 portions and the couplers 308, 304 include complementary threaded portions 296 for securing the couplers in engagement with the at least one of the first and second portions.

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luzzi (4955823).

In regard to claim 1 and 12, Luzzi discloses a distribution device (not numbered) for distributing high magnitude electrical potential from an input port (not marked, area 66) of the distribution device simultaneously to a plurality of output ports (connectors at areas 36 and 292 at the right side of Fig. 5) thereof, utilization devices, the distribution device including a first portion 26, 50 and a second portion 300 adapted for engagement, at least one of the first and second portions including cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304 .

In regard to claim 2, Luzzi discloses the cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304 comprise high voltage contacts (since the device is intended as a high voltage connector, see Col. 1, lines 17-21), the at least one of the first 26, 50 and second 300 portions including openings (not marked) for receiving the high voltage contacts.

In regard to claim 6, Luzzi discloses the first 26, 50 and second 300 portions include complementary threaded portions 296 for securing the first and second portions together in assembled configuration.

In regard to claim 18, Luzzi discloses a distribution device (not numbered) for distributing high magnitude electrical potential from an input port (not marked, area 66) of the distribution device to a plurality of output ports (connectors at areas 36 and 292 at the right side of Fig. 5) thereof, utilization devices, the distribution device including a first portion 26, 50 and a second portion 300 adapted for engagement, at least one of the first and second portions including cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304, and the first 26, 50 and second 300 portions include complementary threaded portions 296 for securing the first and second portions together in assembled configuration.

In regard to claim 19, Luzzi discloses a distribution device (not numbered) for distributing high magnitude electrical potential from an input port (not marked, area 66) of the distribution device to a plurality of output ports (connectors at areas 36 and 292 at the right side of Fig. 5) thereof, utilization devices, the distribution device including a first portion 26, 50 and a second portion 300 adapted for engagement, at least one of the first and second portions including cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304, the first 26, 50 and second 300 portions including complementary surfaces (not marked, areas where 306 and 218 meet) between which at least one of the cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304 is captured to promote electrical continuity among the cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304 through the device, the complementary surfaces the (thread 296, 290) is seen to be including labyrinthine portions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dean et al. (3263203).

The examiner takes official notice that plugs are commonly used in open ports. Such plugs are complementary to the open port.

The use of a plug in an unused port is well known for the purpose of protecting the open contacts. For that reason, it would have been obvious to include a complementary plug in an unused port of Dean et al.

Claims 8 – 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luzzi (4955823) in view of the prior art shown by applicant.

In regard to claims 8 and 20, Luzzi disclose most of invention except for a plurality of high magnitude potential utilization devices. The use of the connector in the utilization devices (i.e. coating material devices) of the prior art would have been obvious since the prior art requires distribution devices and the distribution device of Luzzi offers good connection with minimal and easy maintenance (column 1, lines 23-58).

In regard to claim 12, Luzzi discloses a high magnitude potential distribution device (not numbered) having an input port (connector 66), and output ports (connectors at

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areas 36 and 292), utilization devices, the output port of the high magnitude potential supply being coupled to the input port of the distribution device and respective output ports of the distribution device being coupled to respective utilization devices. Luzzi does not disclose a high magnitude potential supply system including a high magnitude potential supply having an output port at which a high magnitude potential is provided and a plurality of high magnitude potential utilization devices. The use of the connector in the utilization devices (i.e. coating material devices) of the prior art would have been obvious since the prior art requires distribution devices and the distribution device of Luzzi offers good connection with minimal and easy maintenance (column 1, lines 23-58).

In regard to claim 9, 13 and 21, Luzzi in view of the prior art shows by applicant discloses the utilization devices comprise coating material atomizing and dispensing devices.

In regard to claim 10, 14 and 22, Luzzi in view of the prior art shows the coating material atomizing and dispensing devices comprise electrostatically aided coating material atomizing and dispensing devices.

In regard to claim 11, 15 and 23, Luzzi in view of the prior art shows at least one coating material source coupled to the coating material atomizing and dispensing devices.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 02/07/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's arguments on page 5 with regard to Luzzi's reference that there is no distribution device, Examiner disagrees. Examiner considers a crimp connector 66 is an input and connectors 290, 306 and 218, 222 as outputs, thus it is a distribution device.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

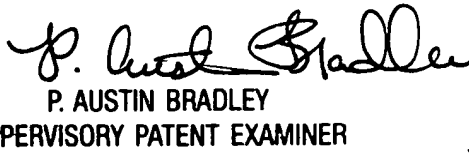
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larisa Z. Tsukerman whose telephone number is (571)-272-2015. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571)-272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT, 05/18/2006


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